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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/720,312	11/24/2003	Dennis C. Alexander	16932-1	4297
7590	04/04/2005		EXAMINER	
William R. Coenen, III Kean, Miller, Hawthorne, D'Armond, McCowan & Jarman, L.L.P. P.O. Box 3513 Baton Rouge, LA 70821-3513			AVILA, STEPHEN P	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3617	
DATE MAILED: 04/04/2005				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/720,312	ALEXANDER, DENNIS C.
	Examiner Stephen Avila	Art Unit 3617

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 25 January 2005.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-30 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 20-30 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-5,7-11 and 14-18 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 6,12,13 and 19 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: _____

Art Unit: 3617

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 1, 3-5, 8-10, 14, 17 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Ness.

Ness discloses a hull with a bow and stern, a fore ballast chamber 62, motor (at 60), an aft ballast chamber 64, pumping means and evacuation means (with the chambers in fluid communication via conduits; note Figure 3, for example), and a dry chamber inside the hull. With respect to the intended use as a hunting vessel, the intended use has been given limited weight because intended use defines no patentable structure. Additionally, the vessel of Ness is capable of being used for hunting.

3. Claims 2, 11 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ness in view of Ernst. Ness does not disclose camouflaging means. Ernst teaches camouflaging means (column 1, lines 26, 27). It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the device of Ness with camouflaging means as taught by Ernst for improved hunting.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ness in view of Baughman et al. Ness does not disclose a ballast baffle. Baughman et al disclose a ballast baffle 62. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in

the art at the time the invention was made to form the ballast means of Ness with a baffle as taught by Baughman et al for improved stability.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ness in view of Rizley. Ness does not disclose a vertically adjustable motor. Rizley teaches a vertically adjustable motor 14. It would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to form the motor of Ness to be vertically adjustable as taught by Rizley for improved stability and direction control.

6. Claims 6, 12, 13 and 19 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

7. Claims 20-30 are allowed.

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to the claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Stephen Avila whose telephone number is 703-308-2578 (on April 12, 2005, the examiner's phone number will change to 571-272-6678). The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Thursday from 8 AM to 4 PM (EST).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Samuel J. Morano can be reached on 703-308-0230. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Stephen Avila
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3617

